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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/596,850	06/19/2000	Edward A. Marue	546-P-8-USA	4479

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EXAMINER

RAMIREZ, RAMON O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

#27

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/596,850

Applicant(s)

MARUE ET AL.

Examiner

RAMON O. RAMIREZ

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

This is the fifth Office Action corresponding to communication filed on
Nov 20, 2002.

Supplemental oath/declaration

The supplemental declaration has been accepted.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 251 as being an improper recapture of claimed subject matter deliberately canceled in the application for the patent upon which the present reissue is based. As stated in *Ball Corp. v. United States*, 221 USPQ 289, 295 (Fed. Cir. 1984):

The recapture rule bars the patentee from acquiring, through reissue, claims that are of the same or broader scope than those claims that were canceled from the original application.

A broadening aspect is present in the reissue, which was not present in the application 08/353,118, issued as Pat. No. 5,615,855 (hereinafter the '855 patent). The record of this application shows that the broadening aspect relates to subject matter that applicant previously surrendered during the prosecution of the '855 patent. Accordingly, the narrow scope of the claims in the '855 patent was not an error within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 251, and the broader scope surrendered in the application cannot be recaptured by the filing of the present reissue application.

The limitation "a payload located only on the top portion telescopic mast" omitted in the reissue claims was present in the claims of the '855 patent. Applicant indicated through the prosecution of the patent application that this was the main reason for allowance. The examiner's reasons for allowance in the '855 patent application stated that it was the

limitation of the *top section being fully retracted* which distinguished over the art of record. Applicant did not present on the record a counter statement or comment as to the examiner's reason for allowance, and permitted the claims to issue. The omitted limitation is thus established as relating to subject matter previously surrendered. This rejection was also presented during the prosecution of re-issue application 09/283,843 which is a parent application for this application, and was not traverse by Applicant, who proceeded to amend the claims to include the above language.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Argument regarding that "recapture" only applies to claims only broader than the canceled claims, but is only one criteria for the applicability of recapture. The recapture applies to all the claims of the application. See *Pannu v. Storz Instrument, Inc.* 59 USPQ2d 1597.

Applicant points out that the inapplicability of the recapture was already explained and that a Notice of Allowability was issued. This comment makes the impression that the argument was accepted by the Office. However, at the time, the application was considered to be a regular application and not a reissue. Once the application was considered a reissue, the Notice of Allowability was withdrawn and a new rejection based was presented.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner **Ramírez** at telephone number (703) 308-0748. The examiner can be normally reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

The fax numbers for this Group are (703) 872-9326 (official papers), (703) 872-9327 (official after final papers) and (703) 308-3519 (for informal papers). Our Customer service fax number is (703) 872-9325.

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Any inquiry of general nature relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

R.O. RAMIREZ
December 2, 2002



RAMON O. RAMIREZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600
ART UNIT 3632